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P 051720Z OCT 06
FM AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6373
INFO RUCNMR/MERCOSUR COLLECTIVE
RUEHBO/AMEMBASSY BOGOTA 2541
RUEHCV/AMEMBASSY CARACAS 0447
RUEHGT/AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA 0119
RUEHLP/AMEMBASSY LA PAZ OCT SANTIAGO 2919
RUMIAAA/CDR USSOUTHCOM MIAMI FL//J-5//

C O N F I D E N T I A L MONTEVIDEO 000951

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DEPT ALSO FOR WHA/BSC AND IO
SOUTHCOM FOR POLAD

E.O. 12958: DECL: 10/01/2016
TAGS: UNSC PREL GT VE UY
SUBJECT: URUGUAY ON UNSC RACE

REF: A. MONTEVIDEO 0936

¶B. STATE 162359

Classified By: Charge D'Affaires James D. Nealon
for reasons 1.4 (B) and (D)

¶1. (C) This message supplements information provided in Ref
¶A.

¶2. (C) Ref B indicated that Venezuela is unlikely to pull out of the race before the October 16 UNGA vote that will decide the contested Latin American seat on the UNSC for 2007-2008. However, on October 4 (without any prompting on my part) the MFA's DirGen for Political Affairs Alvaro Gallardo said that Uruguay had been approached on "more than one occasion" as a possible compromise candidate for the semi-permanent UNSC seat. He did not elaborate on who had approached the GOU, but said that Uruguay could only seriously consider such an option if it was proposed by Mercosur.

¶3. (C) Gallardo mused that being part of a prominent IO poses dilemmas for small nations such as Uruguay. On the one hand, it offers prestige and the opportunity to make a difference; on the other it places demands on resources and subjects the country to increased outside political pressure. He said he personally preferred a lower profile for Uruguay.

¶4. (C) Gallardo intimated that lots of Latin American leaders privately boo ("sisear") Chavez' behavior -- particularly his boorish September 20 address at the UN -- though none of them, with the possible exception of Brazil, were inclined to tell the BRV President to moderate his discourse. Nevertheless, Gallardo indicated that Uruguay's vote for Venezuela was practically a foregone conclusion, because of its membership in Mercosur. Tellingly he never once mentioned Guatemala during our conversation.

¶5. (C) Comment: I did not respond to Gallardo's fishing about Uruguay's possibilities as a last minute compromise candidate for the semi-permanent UNSC seat. The issue received some attention in the press here a couple of weeks ago when the idea was floated by former Argentine Econ Minister Lavagna.
End Comment.

Nealon